

## CLAIMS

1. A polishing apparatus including a polishing object holding mechanism for holding a polishing object to be polished, and a table having a polishing surface, wherein  
5 the polishing object held by said polishing object holding mechanism is pressed against the polishing surface of said table and polished by relative movement between the polishing object held by said polishing object holding mechanism and the polishing surface of said table,  
10 wherein an elastic sheet is stretched over an upper surface of said table, and a polishing pad having a polishing surface on an upper side thereof is replaceably stretched over said elastic sheet.
2. A polishing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
15 said elastic sheet has a plurality of projections on a surface thereof.
3. A polishing apparatus including a polishing object holding mechanism for holding a polishing object to be polished, and a table having a polishing surface, wherein  
20 the polishing object held by said polishing object holding mechanism is pressed against the polishing surface of said table and polished by relative movement between the polishing object held by said polishing object holding mechanism and the polishing surface of said table,  
25 wherein a recess is provided on an upper surface of said table, and an opening of said recess is covered with an elastic sheet to form a fluid chamber, said fluid chamber being filled with a fluid under a predetermined

pressure, and a polishing pad having a polishing surface on an upper side thereof is replaceably stretched over said elastic sheet.

4. A polishing apparatus according to claim 3, which is  
5 provided with a fluid supply section that supplies the fluid to said fluid chamber, wherein said elastic sheet is deformable according to a supply pressure of the fluid supplied from said fluid supply section.

5. A polishing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein  
10 said fluid supply section includes a fluid path and a fluid source for supplying the fluid, said fluid source having a control part that controls the supply pressure of the fluid.

6. A polishing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein  
15 said table has a plurality of pistons between said elastic sheet and said polishing pad, and a piston guide plate that limits a direction of movement of said pistons, said pistons being guided by said piston guide plate so as to move in a direction perpendicular to the polishing surface of said polishing pad in response to deformation of said  
20 elastic sheet.

7. A polishing apparatus including a polishing object holding mechanism for holding a polishing object to be polished, and a table having a polishing surface, wherein the polishing object held by said polishing object holding  
25 mechanism is pressed against the polishing surface of said table and polished by relative movement between the polishing object held by said polishing object holding mechanism and the polishing surface of said table,

wherein an elastic sheet having a plurality of recesses is stretched over an upper surface of said table so that a fluid is sealed in between said elastic sheet and the upper surface of said table, and a polishing pad having  
5 a polishing surface on an upper side thereof is replaceably stretched over said elastic sheet.

8. A polishing apparatus including a polishing object holding mechanism for holding a polishing object to be polished, and a table having a polishing surface, wherein  
10 the polishing object held by said polishing object holding mechanism is pressed against the polishing surface of said table and polished by relative movement between the polishing object held by said polishing object holding mechanism and the polishing surface of said table,

15 wherein said table is formed by a belt suspended between pulleys, and wherein an elastic sheet is stretched over an upper surface of said belt, and a polishing pad having a polishing surface on an upper side thereof is replaceably stretched over said elastic sheet.

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